

Parish of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Guidelines for Attendance at Mass 23. 7.21

As we move forward over the next few weeks, the guiding principle from the bishops, is to begin opening up as the government suggests, whilst at the same time ensuring that churches continue to be places where people feel safe to worship.

The survey at all the Masses last weekend revealed that the majority of parishioners would like to have a social distancing area available in each of the churches. From next Sunday, therefore, at the 5.30pm, 9.00am, 10.15am and 11.30am Masses, most of the church will be designated as an area of social distancing. There will be one sector left for non social distancing. The 6.00pm Mass will not have a social distancing area provided. As the architecture of each church is different, there will be an information sheet for each church available this weekend. Please be aware that the areas chosen for social distancing and non social distancing have been chosen carefully to ensure that the social distancing area is not compromised. This may mean that you may not be able to sit in an area of the church which you might have preferred. Please bear with us in this complicated time as we address these issues. Hopefully, it will not be too long now, before we can return to normal.

Here are the guidelines that we will be operating across all three churches from next weekend, 30th July/1st August.

- **YOU WILL NO LONGER BOOK TO COME TO MASS.** Each church has lists of names of those who have been attending and you will be ticked off the list when you arrive.
- If you are coming back to church for the first time, when you arrive, you will be asked to either register with the QR code or write your name and phone number on a slip of paper and place it in the box provided.
- When you arrive, you will be asked to wear a face mask in church (unless you are exempt), and you will be asked to sanitize your hands on entry.
- A steward will ask you if you wish to be socially distanced or not, and they will take you to the relevant area. In the socially distanced area, please fill from the front so that there are no gaps left in the pews that would mean someone would have to climb past you in the row.
- Members of the congregation are now permitted to sing if they are wearing a face mask.
- Readers no longer have to sanitise before they read but they can continue to do so if they wish.
- Stewards, Eucharistic Ministers and Servers will continue to wear face masks.
- Holy Communion is distributed differently in each church so please check the information sheet for your church. People in the non socially distanced areas will be able to process up to Holy communion in the normal way but please wait for a steward to call out your row so that there is no bunching together in the communion procession.
- Sanitiser will still be offered as you go up to Holy Communion, but this is totally voluntary, and is provided in case you sense that your hands may need cleaning after touching benches and handrails. Please ensure you have

rubbed your hands together well, so that they are dry before you receive the Blessed Sacrament. Please also ensure that you stretch out your hand as flat as possible.

- At the end of Mass you may stay behind to pray but please be conscious of others in your row who may want to leave. (Particularly if there is no other way out of the pew.)
- As you are leaving, please also ensure that you do not congregate within the church but go straight outside.

Specific Guidelines for Attendance at St Michael's

- Please enter through the hall as usual where the offertory, second collection, bulletins and candles will be organised as before.
- Those with mobility issues can come straight to the church porch and follow the process as currently.
- Hymn books will be picked up from the bookcase on the way into the church and will be left at the end of the row as you leave.
- If you do not want to be socially distanced you will enter the church via the glass doors on the left and sit in section A.
- If you would like to remain socially distanced you can sit in sections, C, B and D (however the back of Section D will be left for those who need communion bringing to them).
- Please seat yourselves in a socially distanced way filling the rows by moving along to the far end as before.
- At Communion a steward will lead out the choir and section C. After the choir are seated a steward will lead out section A. All will return to their seats as before in an anticlockwise direction.
- Parishioners in section B and D will be led after A and C as before.
- If you wish Communion to be brought to you please tell a steward and sit at the back of section D.
- At the end of Mass all exits will be open for you to leave in your own time.

Let us keep on praying for one another and for those who are sick and those who care for them during this pandemic.